



City of Fredericksburg

City Council Special Joint Meeting with County Commissioners Minutes

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 ~ 10:00 AM
New City Hall at East Campus
2818 E. U.S. Hwy. 290
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

Members Present:

Mayor Jeryl Hoover
Councilmember Randy Briley
Councilmember Bobby Klein
Councilmember Tony Watson

Members Absent:

Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner

County Commissioners Present:

Judge Daniel Jones
Commissioner Pct 1 Charles Olfers
Commissioner Pct 2 Keith Kramer
Commissioner Pct 4 Don Weinheimer

City Staff Present:

Clinton Bailey, City Manager
Garret Bonn, Assistant City Manager
Krista Wareham, Director, Finance
Brian Vorauer, Police Chief
Kris Kneese, Director, Public Works and Utilities
Tammie Loth, HR Director
Aaron Anderegg, Director, Information Technology
Anna Hudson, Director, Development Services
Andrea Schmidt, Director, Parks and Recreation
Lynn Bizzell, Fire Chief
Sean Doerre, Public Information Officer
Frank Stead, Fire Department
Amy Burrier, Fire Department
Leslie Embrey, Assistant to the City Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeryl Hoover called the City Council Meeting to order on behalf of the City Council and announced a quorum present. He noted that Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner was not able to attend. Judge Jones called the County Commissioner's Meeting to order.

City Manager Clinton Bailey started off that this would be an open discussion and learning opportunity where the Fire Department Staff would start with a presentation in how we were approaching the 5 Year Strategic Plan. He added that the second item would be a presentation and discussion on a TIRZ. Lastly, he added that there would be a tour of The Albert Hotel following the meeting.

2. OTHER ACTION ITEMS AND UPDATES

A. Fire EMS Operations Plan for the next 5 Years. (Clinton Bailey, City Manager)

Fire Chief Lynn Bizzell provided an overview of the EMS Operations and the Plan for the next 5 years. He noted challenges that we face in the future and fortunate to have a volunteer department to respond to the rural areas. He added that he will talk about a typical day at the Fire Station. He expressed sincere gratitude for having Volunteer Firefighters in our rural areas and noted acknowledged those that were present. He noted that the Fire Department has full-time employees, part-time employees, and volunteers within the Fire Department that spend a lot of time taking care of our counties throughout Gillespie County. He turned it over to Amy Burrier who captures all the data. He also introduced Frank Stead, her mentor.

Ms. Burrier stated that Fredericksburg Fire/EMS operates as a team with the support of the people in this room from part-time to volunteer assistance. She noted the key topics that would be discussed today that included capital equipment, staffing, areas of coverage, etc.

She reported that there are 30 Fredericksburg Volunteer Personnel with 27 Careered Staff Personnel which are on duty daily. She added they also have 5 Administrative Personnel with 15 Part-Time Personnel.

Mrs. Burrier also reported on their schedules noting the travel in locations for department personnel. She reviewed the Current Organizational Structure Chart and the daily On-Duty Organizational Structure Chart. Various coverage types as well as the Standby and Emergency Calls and how they are covered. She described the apparatus that are available for the various types of calls being the Ambulance, Engine, and Rescue Apparatus. She also mentioned the Brush Truck, Tender, and Ladder Truck and their functions.

The Primary Stations and Equipment was presented at Central and South Stations noting there are also North and South Storage Substations. She added that the Med Unit Reserve at South Storage is not licensed. Councilmember Briley asked if staff felt comfortable with the current coverage. She replied yes. Chief Bizzell reported that 2 ambulances are expected for delivery in January and will sell the chassis to keep 3 responding and 3 in reserve.

Regarding the Response and Area, Ms. Burrier referenced the map indicating the red and purple areas on are primary. Other areas in the outlying area, are responded to via mutual aid noting the blue area is covered by the City of Kerrville through a cooperative agreement. She denoted the portion of Hidden Springs Subdivision on Hwy 87 that is covered for Kerrville.

Regarding the duration time factor, it was reported that their calls average 40-50 minutes each (i.e. Falls, Lift Assist, Medical Trauma, In Town transfers, Motor Vehicles Accidents and Fire Alarms). The longer duration calls average 1 to 5 hours which include Out of Town transfers, MVA with Fatalities, House Fires, Gas Leaks, and Cardiac Arrests. She referenced a slide with Actual Incidents in May 13, 2024 with 13 Incidents Total. She added that this notable block took 2 hours and 17 minutes. She also referenced incidents on August 20, 2024 which includes 16 incidents for a total of 6 hours for a very heavy day with 67 personnel responding. Lastly, she referenced 20 Incidents on October 28, 2024 with 41 Assignments.

A discussion ensued regarding challenges and the percentage of city calls vs county calls. Chief Bizzell stated that they can build up our first responders and provide addition training to send 2 people to an incident until the ambulance arrives. He added that they cannot predict a 911 call so responders. are constantly moving the units around and calling on back-fill to assist to cover calls. Chief Bizzell noted that the percentage was 70/30 although responders spend more time in the county due to travel time of the call locations.

As part of the 5 Year Strategic Plan, a Proposed Org Chart was presented by Chief Bizzell as he explained the roles and responsibilities for Battalion Chief, EMS Captain, and Fire Captain. Questions were asked regarding personnel and insurance and a brief discussion ensued.

Mayor Hoover called for a 10-minute recess.

Frank Stead presented the Fredericksburg Fire/EMS 5-Year Strategic Plan 2025-2029 noting Year to Year Comparisons indicating that there has been an 8.6% Increase in 2024 in calls. Councilmember Briley noted the loss revenue as many patients cannot pay for a transfer. Mr. Stead also referenced the slide showing the Unit Response Times per Station within the City Limits. He covered the Factors Driving the Strategic Initiatives slide stating the Service Area, Population Growth/New Construction, Increase in calls for Service and their Response Times, and Multiple Calls.

Lastly, Mr. Stead reviewed the Strategic Initiatives as follows: 1) Communications System, 2) Center/South Renovations, 3) Response Times, 4) Apparatus Replacement Plan, 5) Plans with County VFD's, 6) Organization Plans, 7) Staffing, Recruitment, and Volunteer Use, and 8) Monitor Growth.

He mentioned looking at patterns and analyzing same as we are seeing an increase in demand. Councilmember Briley asked of the Fire Program at the High School. It was stated that there are 15 students in the program currently and the trend was that it has become more difficult more to find volunteers.

Judge Jones noted the change in the hospital and asked if that has affected the transfers to the surrounding cities. Chief Bizzell replied that the largest number of transfers go to San Antonio which is the shorter route. There have been 566 transfers and are predicting over 600. It was noted that the reimbursement level is about the same at 30%. Councilmember Watson asked of the requirements for a transfer to be made. Chief Bizzell stated that patients are transferred based on

the specific care that the patient requires. He added that if an ambulance is not available; they can obtain a private transfer vehicle.

George Studor spoke on the importance of the integration of the 5-year Fire Department Strategy and noted his personal experience with first responders when they arrived at his home. He added it is vital to have a plan to retain and grow key personnel.

B. Update on Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) Feasibility Study. (Clinton Bailey, City Manager and Anna Hudson, Director of Development Services)

City Manager Bailey noted that Travis James presented a powerpoint based on the proposed location for a TIRZ and provided examples of Main Street Sales Tax for 2023. He turned the floor over to Travis James to provide a presentation.

Mr. James showed the Main Street Sales Tax Performance for 2020-2024 noting that some data is still missing for the latter portion of this year. He showed Potential TIRZ Projects for Public Works, Parks, and County Sites. He noted that the creating entity would have to approve any changes. He added that the membership varies from 5-15 people, and they must be a resident of the County or property owner of the TIRZ area. He provided the example of the Witte Museum Parking Lot where it was paid for via their TIRZ.

He added that the funds are restricted to be utilized only within the zone. He stated that if the TIRZ would be in place in 2024; the tax would be collected in 2025 which would be the first year of the increment.

Mayor Hoover asked of the next steps. Mr. James showed the Steps to Creating a TIRZ/TIF and showed the Timeline to get to the Creation, Final Project and Plan which would be based on the tax revenue stream.

At this time, Mayor Hoover recognized several developers in the audience that spoke in favor of the TIRZ Program.

Mr. James referenced the slide and pointed out the benefits to the County. A discussion ensued with regards to the function of the TIRZ Board. Judge Jones asked that if all the recommendations of the TIRZ Board would then be considered by the County and City; why then have a TIRZ Board.

Judge Jones noted that all items listed could be paid for out of the general fund. A brief discussion ensued with regards to limiting discretion, reimbursement component and creating a long-term focus with mechanism for reimbursement. Several examples of projects such as sidewalks, trails and having a plan.

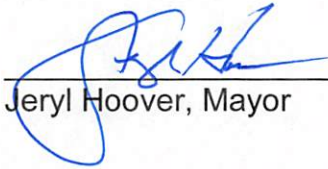
3. **ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Hoover adjourned the City Council Meeting at 1:34 pm.

Attest:



Leticia Vacek, TRMC, CMC, MMC
City Secretary



Jeryl Hoover, Mayor